

The Facts About Kansas Child Care Facility Surveyors

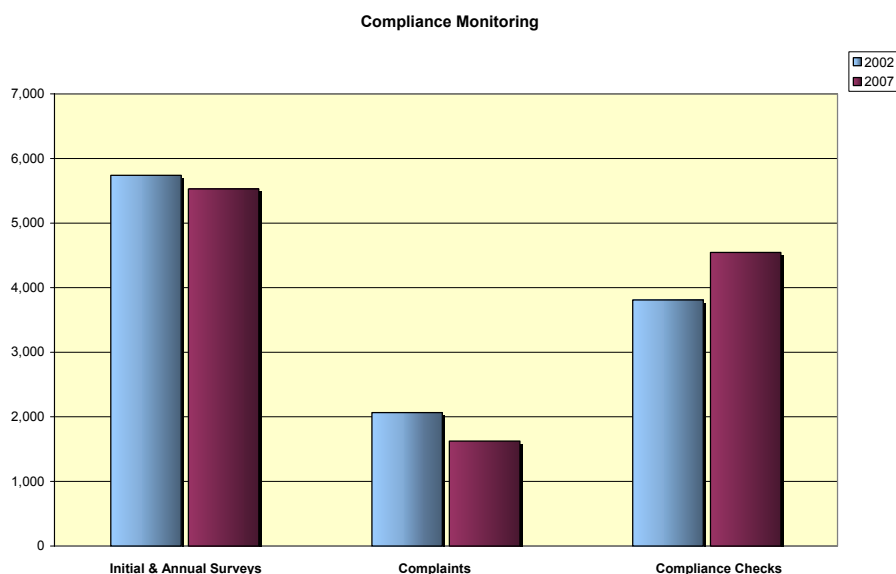
The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) contracts with local health departments to provide regulatory services for Early Care and Youth Programs and Residential Facilities. Child care facility surveyors (surveyors) provide orientation and technical assistance to people interested in opening a child care business, conduct initial and annual surveys and compliance checks to monitor compliance, conduct complaint investigations, and work to improve child care system coordination.

Local health departments employ surveyors. KDHE provides the training and technical assistance to the surveyor to building knowledge and skills and to ensure consistency in application of regulations statewide. The number of surveyors per regulated facility that are available to provide local services greatly effects the amount of time a surveyor has to conduct thorough surveys and to provide consultation to child care providers/staff. The National Association of Regulatory Administrators and the National Association for the Education of Young Children recommend 1 surveyor for every 75 regulated facilities to provide quality regulatory services.

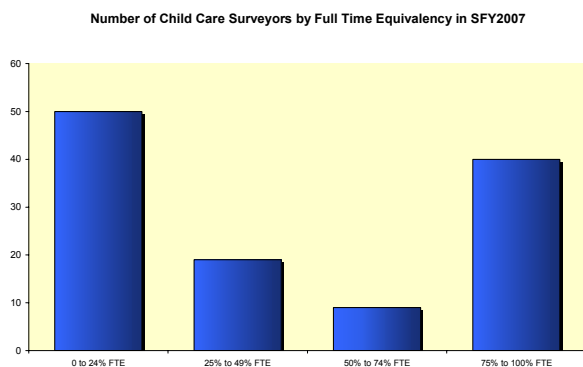
In State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2007, there was 1 surveyor for every 153 regulated Early Care and Youth Programs.

In SFY 2002 the ratio was 1 surveyor for every 161 regulated facilities.

One of the most important activities conducted by child care facility surveyors to protect children in Early Care and Youth Programs is to determine compliance with regulations and to provide consultation and referrals to community services during on-site visits to regulated programs. The following chart compares the number of visits conducted for initial and annual surveys, complaint investigations and compliance checks including compliance checks in connection with initial and annual surveys in SFY 2002 and in SFY 2007.



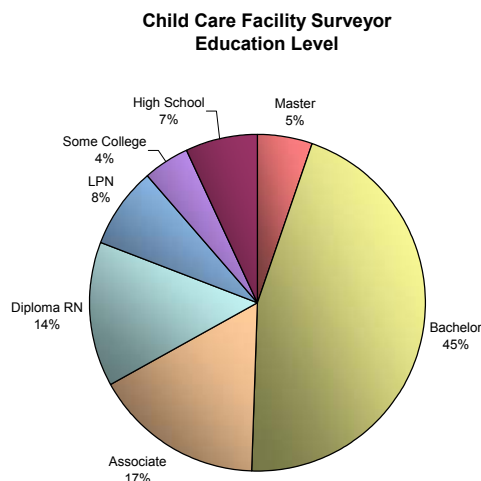
Many surveyors in rural counties are employed less than full time to conduct child care regulatory services. Rural surveyors often serve many roles within the health department. Of the 116 surveyors in SFY 2007:



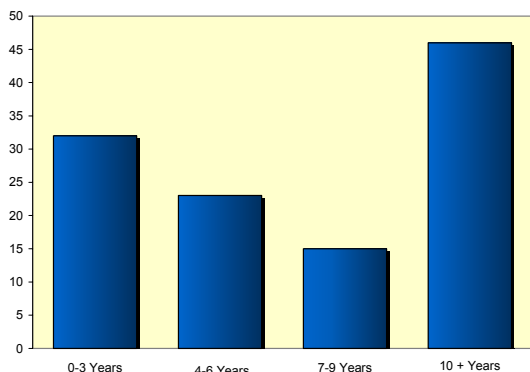
- 74 spent less than 20 hours per week conducting local child care regulatory work compared with 79 in SFY2002; 39 surveyors in designated frontier and rural counties spent 6 hours or less in regulatory work.
- 42 spent more than 20 hours per week compared with 42 in SFY 2002;

About 50% of surveyors have a Bachelor's or Master's Degree. 31% of these surveyors were in designated frontier and rural counties, 34.5% in densely-settled rural and semi-urban counties, and 34.5% in urban counties.

About 17% of surveyors have an Associate's Degree. About 14% are diploma Registered Nurses and about 8% are Licensed Practical Nurses.



Child Care Facility Surveyors
Years of Experience



The average number of years of experience in regulatory work for surveyors was 8.6 years compared to 7 years in SFY2002.

About 72% have more than 3 years of experience compared with 74% in SFY 2002. Of this group, 40% were in frontier and rural counties, 35% in densely-settled rural and semi-urban counties and 25% in urban counties.